

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KHARTO 02818 180743Z

21

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 OMB-01 AID-05 SAB-01 SAM-01

NIC-01 /107 W

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R 180700Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO UEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 9150

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS KHARTOUM 2818

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR PINT ET SU

SUBJ: EHTIOPIAN VISIT TO SUDAN

REF: KHARTOUM 2779

1. SUMMARY. ETHIOPIAN DEL LED BY MININFO IMRU, NOW IN FIFTH DAY KHARTOUM VISIT, GETTING MODERATE PUBLICITY IN MEETINGS WITH NIMEIRI AND SENIOR OFFICIALS. IN INTERVIEW ON INTERNAL, ERITREAN AND FOREIGN POLICY MATTERS, IMRU DOWNPLAYED DOMESTIC OPPOSITION, REFUSED COMMENT ON EXECUTIONS, RULED OUT PLEBISCITE ON REPUBLIC VS MONARCHY, SAID NEGOTIATION WITH QUOTE ERITREAN LEADERS UNQUOTE WOULD TAKE PLACE BUT IGNORED INTERVIEWERS REFERENCE TO ELF, DECLINED GIVE OPINION ON SUDANESE MEDIATION, LAUDED GOOD RELATIONS WITH NEIGHBORS, AND FENDED OFF QUESTION ON RELATIONS WITH US. END SUMMARY.

2. ETHIOPIAN DELEGATION LED BY MININFO MIKAEL IMRU

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PAGE 02 KHARTO 02818 180743Z

ARRIVED KHARTOUM DEC 12 AND HAS MET WITH PRESIDENT NIMEIRI,

FONMIN AND MININFO AND SPEAKER OF PEOPLES ASSEMBLY. DELEGATION INCLUDES ADMINISTRATIVE GOVERNOR OF ERITREA, MEMBER OF MILITARY COUNCIL AND DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. PRESS REPORTS OF MEETINGS HEAVY ON AMITY AND CLOSE RELATIONS, AND IMRU QUOTED AS SAYING ETHIOPIA WOULD BENEFIT FROM EXPERIENCE OF SUDANESE REVOLUTION.

3. QUOTE AL-SAHAFI UNQUOTE INTERVIEW WITH IMRU PUBLISHED DEC 16, NOTABLE FOR DIRECTNESS OF QUESTIONS, PRODUCED SOME HEDGING AND SOME INTERESTING REPLIES. ON DOMESTIC AFFAIRS, IMRU SAID QUOTE ETHIOPIAN REALISM UNQUOTE FREE OF IMPORTED IDEOLOGIES WILL GUIDE COUNTRY'S DEVELOPMENT. HE CLAIMED MAJORITY SUPPORT FOR PRESENT REGIME BUT ALLOWED THAT MINORITY OPPOSITION MIGHT EMERGE IN FUTURE. WHEN ASKED TO EXPLAIN EVENTS LEADING TO EXECUTIONS OF ANDOM AND OTHERS, IMRU REPLIED QUOTE NO COMMENT, UNQUOTE, AND SAID NO DECISION YET REACHED ON WHETHER HAILE SELASSIE TO BE TRIED. HE SAID QUOTE FOREIGN REACTIONS UNQUOTE TO SIGNED DOCUMENTS RELINQUISHING FORMER EMPEROR'S ASSETS ABROAD NOT YET RECEIVED. IMRU HELD THAT PLEBISCITE IS AN EUROPEAN CONCEPT NOT NECESSARY IN ETHIOPIA WITH RESPECT TO CHOICE BETWEEN MONARCH AND REPUBLIC.

4. IMRU SAID ERETRAN PROBLEM WOULD BE SOLVED PEACEFULLY AND BY POLITICAL MEANS. HE DENIED KNOWING OF ANY TALKS WITH ELF, SAYING INSTEAD THAT NEGOTIATIONS WOULD BE HELD WITH QUOTE LEADERS OF ERITREAN PEOPLE INSIDE COUNTRY PARTICIPATING IN CIVIL WORK UNQUOTE. IMRU REFUSED TO BE DRAWN OUT ON POSSIBLE MEDIATING EFFORTS ON PART SUDANESE, SAYING QUOTE GOS IS ONE TO DEFINE ROLE IT CAN PLAY UNQUOTE.

5. ON FOREIGN RELATIONS, IMRU SAID THAT FRIENDSHIP WITH ARAB WORLD, AND SUDAN AND EGYPT IN PARTICULAR, IS PERMANENT FACET ETHIOPIAN POLICY, AND HE TERMED RELATIONS WITH SOMALIA AS GOOD. WHEN ASKED ABOUT US-ETHIOPIAN RELATIONS, IMRU RESTED ON THE CIRCUMLOCUTION: QUOTE WE WILL MAINTAIN AND DEVELOP PRESENT STANDARDS. WE HAVE AT PRESENT INTERNAL PROBLEMS AND WE HAVE NO DESIRE FOR CONSPIRACIES. WE MAINTAIN GOOD RELATIONS UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 KHARTO 02818 180743Z

WITH THE POWERFUL COUNTRIES, I.E., WESTERN EUROPEANS, USSR, CHINA AND US UNQUOTE.
BREWER

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